



UPPER SKAGIT INDIAN TRIBE

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April 22, 2016

Maia Bellon, Director
Washington Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

ATTN: Water Quality Program
swqs@ecy.wa.gov
Becca Conklin

RE: Comments on the State's 2016 Draft Rule for Human Health Criteria and Implementation Tools in Washington State Water Quality Standards

Dear Director Bellon,

The Upper Skagit Indian Tribe submitted comments March 23, 2015 on the initial Human Health Criteria proposed for Washington Water Quality Standards, and again with this letter submit comments to be considered on the proposed 2016 Draft Rule for Human Health Criteria revision. The Tribe has requested for many years that Washington State or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency develop and adopt water quality standards that will be protective of the health of our tribal people and respect our treaty-reserved rights to the harvest of fish and shellfish. The Department of Ecology has now proposed a second draft rule for human health criteria and implementation tools that we believe fail to be protective of fish and shellfish consumption rates healthy for our tribal community. The Upper Skagit Indian Tribe hereby, supports, adopts, and incorporates by reference the complete Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission comments submitted to Ecology in April, 2016. Finally, the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe would like to express our support for the more protective draft rule for human health criteria applicable to Washington State, issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on September 14, 2015. Please contact Lauren Rich, Manager, Environmental Planning and Community Development at 360-854-7006 if there are any questions.

Respectfully,

Doreen Maloney, General Manager & Executive Director, Economic Development and Treaty Entitlements

CC: Scott Schuyler, Natural Resources Policy Director
Jon-Paul Shannahan, Fisheries Biologist